



TEXAS
JUVENILE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT

TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES AND CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

**Response to the Independent Ombudsman
Third Quarter Report, FY 2017
July 25, 2017**

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has received the FY 17 Third Quarter Report from the Office of the Independent Ombudsman (OIO). TJJD appreciates the opportunity to respond.

The OIO reported in the Third Quarter Report a special investigation at the Ron Jackson SJCC, regarding the suicide of a young person in our care. As noted by the OIO, the agency provided a response to their report. In July, 2017, the agency put in place additional protocols for responding to suicidal ideation and behaviors in our youth, including enhanced procedure to address youth who refused to take prescribed psychotropic medication. We remain committed to taking any additional steps necessary to provide the very safest environments possible for our youth.

In August 2017, TJJD will conclude the first phase of work on the Youth in Custody Practice Model, with a final consultant site visit On August 16 and 17, 2017. We will then move in to the sustainability phase of the YICPM. As noted in the FY Second Quarter Report response, this work is resulting in better overall re-entry planning, improvements to case management, improvements to the daily and school schedules and an overall reduction in serious incidents at our facilities.

As always, TJJD appreciates the opportunity to respond to the OIO and looks forward to sharing updates on these efforts that continue to move the agency effectively forward.